O'Donnell's "Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye"; Tiger: VN Withdrawal;Cuba-CIA HM 11.29.72

HR: Thanks for O'D's 11/22/72 NYTimes piece. The opening ref to withdrawal is not new from O'D nor is it now new at all except in terms of the doctrine of the Pentagon Papers as published and as misinterpreted by the major media. However, the line about putting in a government that would ask us to get out, credible and typical JFK, is entirely inconsistent with the propaganda that has him backing the Diem Nhu assassinations because they were negotiating with the north, the end product of any withdrawal at end time except for a single alternative; being overrun.

What interests me more is the Powers line on JFK's refusal to permit air power. (Actually, he caved in partly to Allan Dulles' blackmail and permitted a limited Navy air cover but that got fouled up and was sent at the wrong time.) Of the generals Powers quotes JFK as saying,"They couldn't believe I wouldn't panic to save my own face. Well, they had me figured wrong."

Tahrue!

There is no doubt that JFK had refused any U.S. combat involvement. The whole scheme was to force it, one way or more.